Spectrum allotment

*248. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Wireless Planning and Coordination Cell have issued a circular for allotment of 5th and 6th criteria based on subscriber numbers;

(b) whether it is a fact that subscriber-based allotment of spectrum is followed only in India and is not based on international norms;

(c) whether it is also a fact that mobile operators are over reporting subscriber numbers;

(d) if so, the reasons for adoption of this criteria and whether Government are taking any action to adopt a better method for spectrum allotment; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Order prescribing subscriber based criteria for allotment of 5th and 6th CDMA carriers, subject to availability of spectrum, has been issued on 29th March, 2006.

(b) Different countries follow different criteria for allotment of spectrum. In India, availability of spectrum in the frequency bands, needed for the mobile telecom services, is constrained due to other existing operations and hence subscriber based criteria has been adopted for spectrum allotment to ensure efficient and optimal utilization of available spectrum. This method is considered to be the best suited at present for spectrum allotment in India.

(c) The spectrum is needed for use by the active subscribers and the amount of traffic generated by them. The recent Order of 29th March, 2006 concerning criteria for allotment of 5th and 6th CDMA carriers prescribes, *inter alia,* "Active Subscribers" averaged over a month in the Visitor Location Register (VLR) of the Network Management System (NMS). By this mechanism, over reporting is not possible.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) As per the Order, only the active subscribers, who make and receive calls thereby generating traffic in the network, are taken into account for allotment of additional spectrum. The active subscribers in VLR and peak traffic in NMS, averaged over a month, are considered to be an objective mechanism for verification.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, while answering the question, in para (b), the hon. Minister has referred to "constrained due to other existing operations". I would like to know what the constraints in the form of existing operations are.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, there are constraints in allocation of spectrum, as the spectrum is used by various other Departments like Ministry of Space and Ministry of Defence. Basically, it is also given to other users much before the cellular service was started in our country. The moment we start the spectrum, we follow the international standards of spectrum. We are trying to make sure that these spectra are available and we use the international practices.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, in my question, I have specifically asked whether it is true that the mobile operators are over-reporting the number of subscribers. In the answer, the hon. Minister has tried to reply that there are active subscribers and non-active subscribers. Once a number is allotted, I may use it once in a day or twice in a day and somebody may use it ten times a day. What is the difference? A subscriber is a subscriber. My specific question is: Is it true that the mobile operators are over-reporting to the Government about the number of subscribers?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member has asked a very important question. The system is the international practice system where we monitor the number of subscribers. We have the system called "Home Location Register" and "Visitor Location Register". The Home Location Register is the system where anyone who buys a simcard is entered into the Register. But the Visitor Location Register is the Register system where the actual users, who use it, who are switching on the phone, will be registered. Those who have switched off the phone will not be included in that thing. The way the Department of Telecom is calculating the number of users is on the basis of the Visitor Location Register on an average of a month. You may use the phone today. Tomorrow, if you don't use it, in the record you wouldn't be registered as a user. We are following a

stringent method of Visitor Location Register where only active users are taken into consideration and the average of a month is taken. We are not taking into consideration the Home Location Register where whoever buys can be taken into account. We are not doing that.

स्थापित क्षमता का उपयोग न किए जाने के कारण हानि

*250. **श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:†**

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा:

क्या **संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत संचार निगम लिमिटेड द्वारा वायरलेस-इन-लोकल-लूप की स्थापित क्षमता का उपयोग नहीं किया जा रहा है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या हैं और वर्ष 2002 से 2006 के दौरान इस क्षमता के उपयोग का वर्ष-वार आकलन क्या है; और

(ग) उक्त अवधि में प्रत्येक वर्ष के दौरान स्थापित क्षमता का कितना-कितना उपयोग किया जा सका और इस क्षमता का भरपूर उपयोग न होने के कारण आर्थिक हानि का वार्षिक आकलन क्या है?

संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री दयानिधि मारन): (क) से (ग) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) जी, नहीं। भारत संचार निगम लि॰ द्वारा वायरलैस-इन-लोकल-लूप (डब्ल्यूएलएल) उपस्कर की संस्थापित क्षमताओं का इष्टतम तथा प्रगामी रूप से उपयोग किया जा रहा है।

(ख) क्षेत्र विशेष की क्षमता तथा कवरेज-आवश्यकता को पूरा करने के लिए, समय-समय पर बेस ट्रान्सीवर स्टेशन (बीटीएस) यूनिटों की वृद्धि करके, डब्ल्यूएलएल उपस्कर की क्षमता तैयार की जाती है। सामान्यतया प्रत्येक यूनिट की क्षमता 500 से 750 लाइनों की होती है जो परियात (ट्रैफिक) परिस्थितियों पर निर्भर करती है। चूंकि वायरलैस-इन-लोकल-लूप प्रणाली, तकनीकी रूप से अव्यवहार्य क्षेत्रों तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में टेलीफोन सेवा प्रदान करने के लिए संस्थापित की जाती है, अत: इसकी क्षमता का पूर्ण उपयोग होना ही मुख्य उद्देश्य नहीं है। वर्ष 2002 से 2006 (वित्तीय वर्ष की समाप्ति पर) के दौरान डब्ल्यूएलएल क्षमता के उपयोग का ब्यौरा विवरण-I में दिया गया है। (नीचे दिखिए) भारत संचार निगम लि॰ की अधिकांश डब्ल्यूएलएल प्रणालियां ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में लगायी जाती हैं, जहां इनका उपयोग मुख्य रूप से ग्रामीण

† सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद द्वारा पूछा गया।